

**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 7
FOURTH QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW**

Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto,
Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 7 during fourth quarter 2003 was 222,887, an increase of 3.2% from the third quarter 2003, and an increase of 1.3% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in 10 of the 20 NAICS sectors from the third quarter 2003. The largest percentage increase of 29.1% was in educational services.

Average quarterly employment data for fourth quarter 2003, third quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 65. Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 7 with 39,082 employees, or 17.5% of total employment. Caddo was the leading parish with 120,544 employees, or 54.1% of total employment.

Total wages increased 5.6% from the same period in 2002, and increased 13.1% from the third quarter 2003, for an average weekly wage of \$588.24. Caddo parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$647.49.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 7 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 7" beginning on page 68.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Bienville	\$ 526.33
Bossier	520.91
Caddo	647.49
Claiborne	513.89
DeSoto	582.04
Lincoln	528.79
Natchitoches	496.74
Red River	473.05
Sabine	489.36
Webster	510.40

The number of reporting units in RLMA 7 for fourth quarter 2003 was 13,615.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

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MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT
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